

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-12, and 14-22 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3-12, and 14-22 are rejected.

Claims 2, 13, 23, and 24 have previously been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Claims 21 and 22 are amended above.

Support for the above amendments appears throughout the originally filed specification, claims, and/or drawings. Specifically, support can be found in the first full paragraph on page 3 of the specification.

Applicant, by amending any claims herein, makes no admission as to the validity of any rejection made by the Examiner against any claim. Applicant reserves the right to reassert any of the claims canceled or the original claim scope of any claim amended herein, in a continuing application.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments to the claims introduce no new matter within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §132. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending rejections for the reasons discussed below.

- I. Claims 21 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horiki (US 2002/0140667) in view of Averbuch et al. ("Averbuch", US 2003/0081836) as set forth in paragraph 4 of the Official Action.***

Claims 21 and 22 have been amended with the allowable subject matter indicated in paragraph 6 of the Official Action. Thus, claims 21 and 22 should now be in condition for allowance.

- II. Claims 1, 3-12, and 14-20 are indicated as being allowed as set forth in Paragraph 5 of the Official Action.***

Applicant acknowledges that claims 1, 3-12, and 14-20 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Official Action, and respectfully submits that all of the stated grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

If an extension of time is necessary to prevent abandonment of this application and is not filed herewith, then such extension of time is hereby petitioned for under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a). Any fees required for further extensions of time and any fees for the net addition of claims are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 14-0112. Prompt and favorable consideration of this reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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